

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for using a mobile telephone to retrieve
2 information about an article, comprising:

3 a camera, associated with said mobile telephone, that records
4 an image of at least a portion of said article; and

5 a database, remote from said mobile telephone, that interprets
6 said image to identify said article and supplies information about
7 said article to said mobile telephone based thereon.

2. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said image is
2 received from said mobile telephone via a selected one of:

3 an infrared connection, and
4 a direct radio link.

3. The system as recited in Claim 2 wherein said direct
2 radio link conforms to a standard selected from the group
3 consisting of:

4 Bluetooth,
5 WLAN, and
6 HomeRF/SWAP.

4. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said image
2 contains coded data and said coded data is decoded in a server
3 associated with said database.

5. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said mobile
2 telephone contains software that defines a structure corresponding
3 to said database.

6. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said image
2 contains coded data and said coded data is contained in a barcode.

7. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said mobile
2 telephone provides said information to a user a selected one of:
3 visually, and
4 acoustically.

8. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said information
2 comprises price information and said information is transmitted
3 back to said mobile telephone via a selected one of:
4 Multimedia Message Service (MMS), and
5 email.

9. The system as recited in Claim 8 wherein said database
2 contains said price information in at least two different
3 currencies.

10. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein a memory in said
2 mobile telephone stores data pertaining to a plurality of articles
3 and said image is a video sequence.

11. A method of using a mobile telephone to retrieve
2 information about an article, comprising:

3 recording an image of at least a portion of said article with
4 a camera associated with said mobile telephone;

5 interpreting said image to identify said article; and

6 supplying information about said article to said mobile
7 telephone based thereon.

12. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said image is
2 received from said mobile telephone via a selected one of:

3 an infrared connection, and
4 a direct radio link.

13. The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said direct
2 radio link conforms to a standard selected from the group
3 consisting of:

4 Bluetooth,

5 WLAN, and

6 HomeRF/SWAP.

14. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said image
2 contains coded data, said method further comprising decoding said
3 coded data in a server associated with said database.

15. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said mobile
2 telephone contains software that defines a structure corresponding
3 to said database.

16. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said image
2 contains coded data and said coded data is contained in a barcode.

17. The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising
2 providing, with said mobile telephone, said information to a user
3 a selected one of:

4 visually, and
5 acoustically.

18. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said
2 information comprises price information and said information is
3 transmitted back to said mobile telephone via a selected one of:
4 Multimedia Message Service (MMS), and
5 email.

19. The method as recited in Claim 18 wherein said database
2 contains said price information in at least two different
3 currencies.

20. The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising
2 storing, in a memory in said mobile telephone, data pertaining to
3 a plurality of articles and said image is a video sequence.

21. A mobile telephone, comprising:

2 a camera;

3 software that receives an image of at least a portion of an
4 article from said camera, interprets said image to identify said
5 article and queues data based thereon for transmission to a
6 database remote from said mobile telephone; and

7 a display that receives and displays information about said
8 article from said database.